

Distributed Generation (DG) Interconnection Issues



**A California Utility
Perspective**

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Distributed Generation (DG) Utility Background



- Utilities support DG
- Utilities reorganized to facilitate DG interconnections
- A key utility goal is to ensure there is sufficient capacity to safely and reliably serve customer load; and if DG can help achieve this, that's great!
- Utilities have supported exemptions for DG's for various departed load charges since 2001
- Utilities supported the extension of SGIP through 2007
- Utilities have supported net metering legislation for solar, wind, biomass, and fuel cells

DG – Interconnection Issues

- Past relationships
- Current business climate
- Differences among utilities:
 - * Organizational
 - * Design
 - * Operational



DG – Interconnection Issues

- **Utilities learning DG technology and DG industry issues**
- **DG community learning utility systems and issues**
- **California among the leading states in the nation in developing DG interconnection technical and process standards**



DG – Interconnection Issues

- Lengthy certification process, which is outside of utility control
- Volume and complexity of legislation and regulation, so please contact the utility early in the interconnection process for latest information
- Technical complexity of issues
- Developer and customer concerns



DG – Process Improvements

- Rule 21 Workshop process: tackling tough issues collaboratively
- Revisions to Rule 21, interconnection applications, forms, and agreements
- Utility commitment to continue to improve internal interconnection processes
- Utility interconnection web-pages: PG&E's is: www.pge.com/gen
- Utility DG workshops



DG – Process Improvements

- **DG incentives alignment**
- **Clear regulatory direction**
- **Interconnection process transparency**
- **Interconnection status reports**
- **Lab and field testing of DG impacts**
- **Communication, communication, and more communication**



What is Electric Rule 21?



- Sets forth technical and process requirements for interconnecting DG which will operate in parallel with utility grids
- Is in Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas and Electric, and Southern California Edison's tariffs, and is under California Public Utilities Commission jurisdiction
- Is technology and size neutral

DG – Process Improvements

New Electric Rule 21

- **Single utility point-contact**
- **Fixed fee schedule for reviews**
- **Expedited screening process**
- **Standardized review process**
- **More transparent technical responsibilities**
- **Standardized rule language**
- **Defined dispute resolution process**

